

## YORKTOWN EVACUATED.

## Flight of the Rebel Army.

Occupation of Their Immense Works by General McClellan.

## CAPTURE OF GLOUCESTER.

Our Gunboats Gone Up the York River.

All Our Cavalry and Flying Artillery, Supported by Infantry, Pursuing the Rebels.

Ammunition, Camp Equipage, Heavy Ordnance Abandoned by the Insurgents.

## THE NEW REBEL LINE OF DEFENCE.

## THE CHICKAHOMINY,

&amp;c., &amp;c., &amp;c.

WASHINGTON, May 4—12:20 P. M.

The following report has just been received from

Fortress Monroe:

Yorktown was evacuated last night.

Our troops now occupy the enemy's works.

The enemy left a large amount of camp equipage and

guns, which they could not destroy for fear of being

seen.

B. S. SANFORD,

Military Supervisor.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,

May 4—9 A. M.

To Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War:

We have the reports.

We have guns, ammunition, camp equipage, &amp;c.

We hold the entire line of his works, which the engi-

neers report as being very strong.

I have through all my cavalry and horse artillery in pur-

suit, supported by infantry.

I move Franklin's division and as much more as I can

transport by water up to West Point to-day.

No time shall be lost.

The gunboats have gone up York river.

I omitted to state that Gloucester is also in our posses-

sion.

I shall push the enemy to the wall.

G. B. MCCLELLAN,

Major General.

FORTRESS MONROE, May 4—4 P. M.

Hon. Edwin M. Stanton, Secretary of War:

You, no doubt, have been informed by Gen. McClellan,

that his troops are in Yorktown.

JOHN E. WOOL, Major General.

The Press Despatches.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,

May 4—10 A. M.

This morning at five o'clock your correspondent

entered the enemy's works, which the rear of his army

deserted four hours before. Everything was found to be

in utter confusion, as though they left in great haste.

Between forty and fifty pieces of heavy artillery have

been left in their works, after being spiked, together

with a large amount of ammunition, medical stores,

camp equipage, tents, and private property of their

officers.

A negro who was left in the town states that the rebels

threw a large amount of ordnance stores into the river

to prevent its falling into our hands.

Several deserters have succeeded in running into our

lines. One of them, a very intelligent man, originally

from New York, who has been connected with the rebel

ordnance department ever since the works at Yorktown

have been constructed, states that the rebels evacuated

owing to the near approach of our parallels, covering the

immense siege works of our men; that they feared the

success of the Union gunboats in the York and James

rivers, by means of which their communication with the

outer world would be cut off.

The order was given to evacuate the following morning,

which was accordingly done. General Magruder is said

to have most strenuously opposed the measure, stating

that he could not waltz the rebels there was no other

place in Virginia where they could, that he swore

in the presence of his men, who vociferously cheered

him, losing complete control of himself.

General Robert E. Lee, rebel Commander-in-Chief, arrived

at Yorktown on Wednesday, and minutely examined

the works of General McClellan, when he is reported to have

recommended the abandonment of the rebel works, deeming

them untenable.

The deserters all agree in stating that their troops

were very much demoralized and disheartened when the

order to evacuate was made public, as they all anticipated

having an engagement at that point. They also agree

that the rebels had about one hundred thousand men on

the peninsula, together with four hundred pieces of field

artillery.

From the best information received they have fallen

back to Chickahominy creek, beyond Williamsburg,

where it is expected they will make a stand.

Immediately on the facts of the evacuation and the

known, the troops were ordered under arms, and are

now in motion from the right and left wings of the

army.

A large force, under command of General Stoneman,

consisting of cavalry, artillery and infantry, are in the

advance, and will probably come up with the rear of the

enemy before long, if they remain near Williamsburg.

The gunboats have passed above Yorktown, and are

now shelling the shore on the way up. Following them

is a large steamer and vessels loaded with troops, who

will effect a landing—probably near Franklin's division.

Magruder swore he was "not afraid of McClellan, if Lee

was," and that if he could not successfully fight him

there he could surrender.

Only one man was left in Yorktown, and he was a

negro.

General Jameson and Colonel Samuel Black were the

first to enter the enemy's main works. The only casualty

that occurred was the killing of two men and wounding

of three by the explosion of a concealed shell within the

enemy's works.

The following are their names. They belonged to

Company A, Fortieth New York:

REKARD,

George McFarland,

Michael McFarland.

WOUNDED,

Bergman, James Smith, Frederick Steink and Lawrence

Dunn.

The works are very extensive, and show that they

were designed by scientific engineers.

An official report just made to headquarters shows

that the enemy left twenty-one guns on the works.

At Gloucester Point the guns and ordnance stores were

also left.

Another deserter has just come in, and reports that

Jeff Davis came with Lee on Wednesday last, and after a

consultation with the two men without effect, all agreed to

the evacuation except Magruder.

## THE EVACUATION OF YORKTOWN.

## The Flight of the Rebel Army--Strategic Points Around Yorktown and Richmond.



HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC, May 4, 1862.

It is certain that the rebels received reinforcements by

steamers from Richmond on Thursday last, but did not

discuss them. Their soldiers are badly demoralized,

and evidence symptoms of mutiny on account of the re-

treat.

Inside of the fortifications and along the Williamsburg

road, on which they are retreating, they have buried

torpedoes and percussion shells, which are occasionally

exploding and injuring persons.

General Joseph Johnston's baggage has just been cap-

tured.

D. B. Lathrop, telegraph operator, has been mortally

wounded by the explosion of a torpedo.

Another torpedo, attached to a thirteen inch shell, has

just been discovered in the telegraph office.

Our Special Army Correspondence.

CAMP NEAR YORKTOWN, April 29, 1862.

Great Delight of the Troops on Receiving the News from

New Orleans--Signs of a "Rebellion" by the Rebels, &amp;c.

The news received here this morning of the evacuation

of Yorktown took everybody by surprise. For some

days we have had evidence of the intention of the enemy,

but it was not strong enough to induce belief. On the ar-

rival of the news it was quickly circulated on shore and

through the fleet, and the greatest excitement was

manifested.

Washington, May 4, 1862.

The intelligence of the evacuation of Yorktown has caused

excitement and regret, and has led to a great deal of

speculation and conjecture. The public mind is now

in a state of great excitement, and the question of the

evacuation of Yorktown is the subject of much

discussion and debate. The friends and opponents

of General McClellan differ widely in opinion, while

others are disposed to wait and judge the merits of the

question by the results.

The Hottest of the Abolitionists.

WASHINGTON, May 4, 1862.

The news from Yorktown this evening has produced

wild excitement. The evacuation of the position by the

rebels has taken every one by surprise. Until the ar-

rival of the intelligence even the most zealous of the

Union faction believed that the rebel defenses at

Yorktown would be carried only by a most desperate

struggle and with immense loss of life. They shared the

conviction of General McClellan that the rebels would

not retreat, and openly predicted the defeat of our

army there. They insisted that Gen. McDowell should

be assigned to a separate command, in order that he might

go to Richmond with some portion of our army, as it was

utterly impossible for General McClellan to advance a

single inch without the risk of losing his whole army.

To-night, with astonishing unanimity, these same men

are ridiculing and denouncing McClellan for having driven

the one hundred thousand rebels from their interpen-

etrated positions without a battle, and accomplished the capture

of Yorktown without the loss of thousands of lives. Now

they prefer to have known all the time that there was

no rebel army at Yorktown, and that McClellan might

have gone on to Richmond long ago without a contest.

With singular inconsistency, however, they assert that

the rebels have only fallen back to Williamsburg, and

that it was always intended by them that the great bat-

tle of the campaign should be fought there. It is de-

clared that information was received long ago that the

strongest rebel works are at Williamsburg, and it is their

intention to make their stand at that point, out of reach

of our gunboats. These bloodthirsty radicals, who can-

not appreciate a victory unless won at the expense of

thousands of killed and wounded of the Union soldiers,

and will probably find that they have fallen

back from their position in regard to Yorktown

to be more severely mortified by the failure of their

predictions as to Williamsburg. The opinion of the best

informed men here is that the abandonment of Yorktown

is virtually an abandonment of the contest on the part

of the rebels, and a preliminary to the disbanding of their

Eastern army. If they cannot make a stand at York-

town they can do so nowhere else. At that point their

defenses were complete. Warwick river, with its nat-

ural artificial obstructions to the advance of an army,

left them only about a mile and a half to defend be-

tween it and Yorktown. It would have been necessary

for the whole of General McClellan's army to pass

through this narrow gap in their advance.

Both flanks of the rebel army were perfectly

protected by the defenses at the mouth of James river

on one side, and by the fortifications at Yorktown and

Gloucester Point on the other. To turn the left flank

of the rebel army was necessary for General McClellan

to land a force in Mob Jack bay and attack the forts at

Gloucester Point to the rear. Preparations for this

movement had been made, but it involved desperate

fighting, while the grand assault was going on in front

to force the defenses between Yorktown and the stave

of Warwick river. In falling back to Williamsburg they

leave their left flank entirely exposed to a flank

or even a rear attack from our

forces from some point on York river, where they

may be landed under cover of a half dozen of our

gunboats. After Yorktown there is no spot on the penin-

sula where the rebels can have half the chance for a

successful defense; besides, there is no better position

to which they can retreat. Richmond, with its three

lines of circumvallation, is a mere earthwork to the

defenses at Yorktown, and may be assailed simul-

taneously on all sides by a combination of the Union force

now threatening it. Those who have studied most closely

the position regard the evacuation of Yorktown as an

abandonment of the rebellion in arms in the East, and

regard that it has been attained without the immense

loss of life and blood that was anticipated. It makes

the victory of General McClellan ten times more glori-

ous than it was hitherto.

The radical portion are, however, denouncing the peo-

ple by the violence of their denunciations and denunciations

in hotel corridors and at street corners. The peo-

ple and the government rejoice that the end has been so

quickly and easily attained. It might have been done a

week ago with the loss of five thousand valuable lives.

It was done to-day without the loss of a single one.

THE LINE OF THE CHICKAHOMINY.

[From the Richmond Examiner, April 23. Republished

from the New York Herald of May 1.]

The clouds of war thicken each moment. The enemy

are pouring large forces into the Valley of the Rappa-

hannock from several directions. McClellan is reported

to have despatched a body of troops up the Rappa-

hannock from the bay to reinforce McDowell's division at

Fredericksburg. A citizen of Fauquier, who arrived

yesterday, reports a large army as advancing from War-

renton. General Jackson is said to have fallen back

from the valley to Gordonsville before Banks, who fol-

lows after him with a column of about thirty thousand

men. If Banks and McDowell combine their divi-

sions, which is probably their purpose, Richmond will

be threatened from the direction of the Potomac with

sixty thousand men.

Our government has ordered heavy reinforcements

to meet these approaching columns, and it is very probable

that a decisive battle will be fought north of Richmond

before long on the Potomac. The Potomac has triumphed.

Our best fighting

generals have pursued the policy of giving the enemy a

force fight before falling back under the pressure of

superior forces. This was the tactics of Jackson at Win-

chester, and if he is at all sane, he will doubtless be his

tactics again before falling back behind the line of the

Chickahominy.

The effort of the enemy will doubtless be to effect a

junction of his forces under Banks and McDowell

somewhere in the county of Louisa or Caroline.

We suppose it will be necessary for General

Jackson to withdraw until he can get both of these

columns in his front. This done, the instincts of the man

will, doubtless, induce him to offer a battle. Our Ordi-

nary is on the Chickahominy, and our Staff somewhere in

advance in Caroline or Louisa. We should not be surpris-

ed at hearing within a week of a fierce battle on this ad-

vanced theatre, wherever it may be.

We augur well for the result of any engagement that

may come off in that region of country. The enemy

will be far from his water base of operations. He will

be compelled to meet us on equal